

Request for the DISB to Review the Working Draft Scientific Basis Report for Potential Changes to the Bay-Delta Plan

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Water Rights

October 13, 2016



Water Quality Control Planning

- **Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan)**
 - Beneficial uses, objectives, program of implementation, monitoring and assessment
- **Updated periodically**



Problem Statement

- Long term decline in abundance of native estuarine fish and invertebrate species
- Natural production of all four runs of Chinook salmon and steelhead near all-time lows
- Urgent need to address declines in a timely and flexible manner

Phase II Update

- **Focus on protection of fish and wildlife**
- **Four categories of potential new or modified requirements:**
 - **New inflow requirements for Sacramento River, upstream tributaries & eastside tributaries to Delta**
 - **Changes to Delta outflow requirements**
 - **New & modified interior Delta flow requirements**
 - **New cold water habitat requirements**



Timeline

- Working draft Scientific Basis Report 14 Oct, 2016
- Scientific Basis Report Workshop 7 Dec, 2016
- Public comments 13 Dec, 2016
- Draft final Scientific Basis Report Early Jan 2017
- Health & Safety Peer Review Mid Jan 2017
- Draft Substitute Environmental Doc Fall 2017
- Adoption Hearing mid-2018



Science and Technical Reports

- SWRCB 2009 Period Review Report
- SWRCB 2010 Delta Flow Criteria Report
- SWRCB Informational Workshops
- DSP Independent Science Workshops
- DSP, CDFW & NMFS Independent Science workshop
- DISB Fishes and Flows report
- Public input



Scientific Basin Report

Purpose of Report

Five Chapters

- Overview
- Hydrology
- Scientific Knowledge to Inform Fish and Wildlife Flow Recommendations
- Other Aquatic Ecosystem Stressors
- Recommended New and Revised Flow Requirements

Questions for Delta ISB

1. Does the DISB concur with the working draft Scientific Basis Report determinations that:
 - The present flow regimes in the Bay-Delta and its watershed are not adequate to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses
 - There is sufficient information to develop new and revised flow requirements for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses
 - The most current science is being used to make those determinations



Questions for Delta ISB

2. Does the working draft Scientific Basis Report demonstrate:

- The importance of flow in supporting ecosystem processes that benefit salmonids, smelts, and other native fish and invertebrate species in the Estuary and its tributaries
- The relationships between flows and the distribution and abundance of native fish and invertebrate species

Questions for Delta ISB

3. Does the working draft scientific adequately:

- Acknowledge aquatic ecosystem stressors other than flow and how they interact in the ecosystem?
- Demonstrate that an approach that integrates flow conditions with reductions of other stressors could be needed to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses?

Questions for Delta ISB

4. Do the timing and magnitude of flows recommended for consideration in the remainder of the Phase II process capture a sufficiently wide range to inform the decisions that the State Water Board must make in considering new and revised flow requirements for the reasonable protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses?

Questions for Delta ISB

5. Does the use of a percent of unimpaired flow as a “bank account,” with the allowance for flow shaping and shifting to provide functional environmental flows provide an appropriate method for reasonably protecting fish and wildlife beneficial uses?



Questions for Delta ISB

6. The State Water Board appreciates that scientific understanding of the effects of flow and other stressors on aquatic species is continually evolving. The State Water Board intends to structure new and revised flow requirements to reasonably protect fish and wildlife while providing the flexibility necessary to accommodate adaptive management. Please comment on the critical features that must be included to make adaptive management work in this context.

Summary

- SWRCB staff has produced a working draft Scientific Basis Report and is requesting that the DISB review and provide comments that help the Phase II process to move forward in an efficient and effective way.
- Thanks!

